

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION II

DATE: October 26, 1989

SUBJECT: Critical Issues to be Implemented Immediately

FROM: Charles E. Fitzsimmons  
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TO: Jerry Connally  
Federal Coordinating Official, U.S.V.I.

As per our conversation on October 26, 1989 the following issues, specific to St. Croix, are considered critical, and must be implemented immediately:

1. The development of a reliable potable water distribution system. Cistern water quality throughout the island is unknown and widespread contamination suspected. A reliable source of safe drinking water is needed until the cistern water can be treated adequately. It is my understanding that 3-8,000g. tank trucks are due on the island today. However 50 to 100-1500g. tanks (stationary tanks) which are vital to the system are staged in Indiana awaiting deployment. It is also my understanding that it may take 10 days or longer to contract for the shipment of such. This action should be taken immediately. A damage assessment of 162 Commercial Public Water Systems and 100 non commercial water systems such as schools, day cares etc. need to be implemented.
2. The ocean water quality of most of St. Croix's beaches is considered unhealthy for beach goers due to high coliform counts. It is necessary as an interim mitigative measure, that the waste water treatment plant receive technical advice on chlorination procedures through the Public Health Service. It is also necessary to assess and reconstruct the waste water treatment plant and the four pump stations. As an interim measure all beach goers should be warned of unhealthy water quality conditions. The Department of Planning and Natural Resources will be able to assist in this matter.
3. Debris disposal remains stagnant. The EPA supports the controlled burning of combustible vegetative material. EPA would like to see all burning conducted at the western most portion of the island, preferable at a quarry at Hamms Bloff. A secondary option would be incinerator burning at Body Slob and Cramer Park and controlled burning at LaGrange with an ongoing active public information program to warn all potential down-wind inhabitants. Metal shredding on island and recycling in Puerto Rico is the only option for all metals. EPA does not support the dumping of masonry debris in the ocean. Such an option would take too long to

effect and create too many potential long term adverse impacts. Instead the pulverizing of this material and subsequent use as aggregate in road construction or as a cover material at the Anguila Landfill is advisable. The collection, segregation and staying of all hazardous wastes needs to be implemented. These materials includes pesticides, asbestos, PCB oils; normal household items etc. The procurement of an off island disposal facility in compliance with EPA-RCRA-Subtitle C regulations should be initiated.

4. WAPA oils spill recovery efforts and beach restoration is needed. DPNR has requested technical assistance and oversight in this effort. The contract/mission assignment with WAPA should direct WAPA to remove all oil and restore all affected beaches to pre-Hugo conditions as directed by DPNR/USEPA & USCG.
5. The sanitary landfill at Anguila requires additional adequate cover material. Fly-infestation indicates a lack of overall cover material. It is necessary to apply an adequate layer of fill on a daily basis, preferably at the close of each day. The pulverized masonry material discussed in Item 3 may be used in this effort.

All of the above requires close coordination with all agencies including the U.S. Military. The U.S. EPA stands ready to provide technical advice on all of these issues and the necessary sampling and analytical to support all of our recommendations. Please provide prompt response on the implementation of the above.

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